

WUWA

WERKBUND EXHIBITION IN WROCLAW 1929

LIVING
AND WORK SPACE

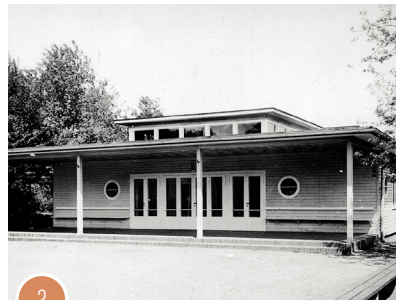
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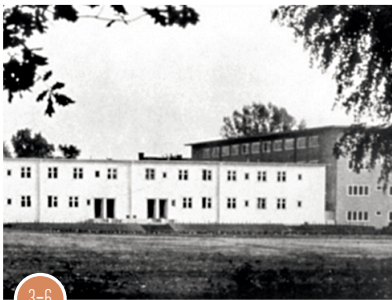
1

GALLERY-ACCESS BLOCK OF FLATS

Address: No. 2 Tramwajowa Street**Surface area:** 12 flats – 48 m²,
6 flats – 60 m²**Designers:** Paul Heim (1879–1963),
Albert Kempster (1883–ca.1941)**Construction:** reinforced concrete
framework filled with slag bricks**Current use:** residential house

2

KINDERGARTEN FOR SIXTY CHILDREN

Address: No. 18 Wróblewskiego Street**Surface area:** 296.3 m²**Designers:** Paul Heim (1879–1963),
Albert Kempster (1883–ca.1941)**Construction:** "Doecker" system by
Christoph & Unmack A.G. – system of
prefabricated wooden panels for easy
installation at the construction site**Current use:** burnt down in 2006, rebuilt
in 2013 as the training center of the Lower
Silesia Chamber of Architects.

3-6

MULTI-FAMILY TERRACED HOUSE

Address: No. 2a Tramwajowa Street**Surface area:** 2 flats – 60 m²,
4 flats – 45 m², 2 flats – 70 m²**Designer:** Gustav Wolf (1887–1963)**Construction:** timber framework (beams
10×12 cm) with internal and external
"Heraklith" chipboard facing**Current use:** residential house

7

MULTI-FAMILY TERRACED HOUSE

Address: No. 2b Tramwajowa Street**Surface area:** 24 flats – 57 m²**Designer:** Adolf Rading (1888–1957)**Construction:** steel framework (space
between the pillars 4×3.5 m) filled with
"Schima" gas-concrete panels (16×30×50 cm)**Current use:** The Wrocław University
"Pancernik" halls of residents. The building
was largely rebuilt.

9

MULTI-FAMILY BLOCK OF FLATS

Address: No. 4 Tramwajowa Street**Surface area:** 4 flats – 45.5 m²,
4 flats – 62 m²**Designer:** Emil Lange (1884–1968)**Construction:** "Spiegel" steel framework
filled with gas concrete "Schima" panels
(50×30–40×15 cm)**Current use:** residential house

10-22

SINGLE-FAMILY TERRACED HOUSES

Address: No. 6–30 Tramwajowa Street**Surface area:** 3 flats – 86 m² (no. 10–12),
3 flats – 91 m² (no. 13–15),
2 flats – 86.07 m² (no. 16–17),
3 flats – 78 m² (no. 18–20),
1 flat – 148.86 m² (no. 21),
1 flat – 94.2 m² (no. 22)**Designers:** Ludwig Moshamer (no. 10–12),
Heinrich Lauterbach (no. 13–15), Moritz
Hadda (no. 16–17), Paul Häusler (no. 18–20),
Theo Effenberger (no. 21–22)
Construction: reinforced concrete framework
filled with cellular concrete hollow bricks
(12×14×25 cm) (no. 10–12), wall constructed
of slag bricks (load bearing walls between the
sections, 25 cm thick) (no. 13–15), reinforcedconcrete framework filled with 25 cm thick
ferro-concrete hollow bricks (no. 16–17),
ceramic brick wall, 25 cm thick (no. 18–20),
"Kilgus" technology – two vertical slag
concrete panels with a gap between them, in
places of greater load-bearing, walls filled with
concrete and steel inserts (no. 21–22)
Current use: residential houses

26-27

SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE
WITH GARAGES**Address:** No. 11–13 Dembowskiego Street**Surface area:** 2 flats – 185 m²**Designer:** Theo Effenberger (1882–1968)**Construction:** "Leipziger" technology –
doubled walls constructed of hollow bricks
and concrete "Portophor" tie bricks**Current use:** residential house

28

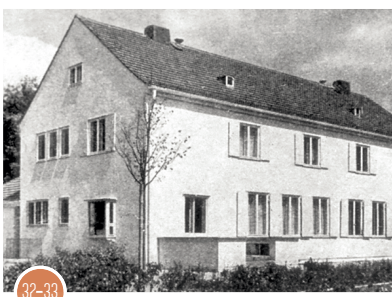
DETACHED HOUSE
WITH GARAGES**Address:** No. 9 Dembowskiego Street**Surface area:** 149 m²**Designer:** Emil Lange (1884–1968)**Construction:** steel framework filled with
17 cm thick gas concrete "Schima" panels**Current use:** residential house

29-30

SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE

Address: No. 23–25 Zielonego Dębu Street**Surface area:** 2 flats – 148 m²**Designer:** Paul Häusler (dates unknown)**Construction:** two layer, 44 cm thick brick
(25×12 cm) wall, gap between two layer
brick skins filled with slag**Current use:** residential house

31

THE HOSTEL FOR SINGLES AND
CHILDLESS COUPLES**Address:** No. 9 Kopernika Street**Surface area:** 16 flats – 37 m²,
32 flats – 27 m²**Designer:** Hans Scharoun (1893–1972)**Construction:** ferro-concrete
framework ("house of cards" type –
"Karteblattbauweise"), applied on "wet",
spaces between frame pillars 3 m and 3.5 m**Current use:** hotel

32-33

DETACHED HOUSE

Address: No. 7/8 Kopernika Street**Surface area:** 165 m² and 189 m²**Designer:** Gustav Wolf (1887–1963)**Construction:** timber framework with inner
and outer chipboard "Tekton" facing**Current use:** demolished

35

DETACHED HOUSE

Address: No. 17 Zielonego Dębu Street**Surface area:** 180 m²**Designer:** Heinrich Lauterbach (1893–1976)**Construction:** 44 cm thick brick wall**Current use:** residential house

36

DETACHED HOUSE

Address: No. 19 Zielonego Dębu Street**Surface area:** 202 m²**Designer:** Moritz Hadda (1887–ca. 1942)**Construction:** two layer, 44 cm thick
brick wall**Current use:** residential house

37

DETACHED HOUSE

Address: No. 21 Zielonego Dębu Street**Surface area:** 149 m²**Designer:** Ludwig Moshamer (1885–1946)**Construction:** two layer, 44 cm thick
brick wall**Current use:** residential house

The most characteristic feature
of the WuWA housing estate is
its variety of flats and houses for
different social groups: the presented
accommodation was conceived for
both high and low-income users. The
"house-community" project by Adolf
Rading (house no. 7) or the hotel for
singles and childless couples (house
no. 31) are prime examples of the
innovative solutions relating to the
on-going discussion about which
form that accommodation should
take. In addition to this, new prevailing
social tendencies concerning
the professional engagement of
women and the necessity to provide
childcare resulted in the design and
construction of a kindergarten and
a small store for the estate.

The architects planned

the landscape for communal
use and presented propositions
for the development of the
gardens. Representatives of
the Housewives' Association
also actively participated in the
preparation of the architectural
concept and home furnishing. The
process of construction took only
three months. The authors of the
WuWA estate proved that new
technologies and their appropriate
application can bring new values,
and demonstrated that artistic
values and technical thinking are
not mutually exclusive.

THE WUWA ESTATE



WuWA was one of the six model housing estates by the Werkbund, built in Europe at the turn of the twenties of the last century. An innovative look at the urbanisation process, city overpopulation, society's expectations in terms of living conditions and ability to deliver the latest technologies in construction – these were the challenging aspects of the post-war period that urban planners and architects had to face. The model housing estates were to present a totally new approach in the field of construction, free from traditional thinking, which would change its users forever. These estates were an experiment of particular importance and its effects influenced the development of modern architecture of the twentieth century.

The WuWA housing estate was a part of the "Living and Work Space" Exhibition, opened on June 15th, 1929. Adolf Rading and Heinrich Lauterbach were the authors of the urban planning concept. Particular houses were freely located in the landscape to provide the residents sufficient access to air, light and sun. The houses were designed by architects belonging to the Silesian section of the Werkbund. Using easy-to-copy technologies, their aim was to create small and medium-sized flats which would be functional, comfortable, with central heating and running water, and at the same time affordable to an average consumer.

Thus the WuWA housing estate is a unique complex of cultural heritage on a world scale. Luckily it has survived up till now in an almost unchanged condition. Besides its location near the Centennial Hall, the Zoo, Szczytnicki Park and the Japanese Garden, it makes for a very attractive tourist spot. In June 2014, the WuWA housing estate was celebrating its 85th anniversary, and even though it requires renovation, the very idea of a model housing estate is still fresh and is attracting lots of interest. What is more, the solutions presented by the authors are not only contemporary, but also inspirational for the youngest generations of architects and urban planners.

